

## **CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT (CJA) TASK FORCE**

California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA)

Law Enforcement & Victims Services Division

**Friday February 20, 2009, 10:00 AM**

Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza, Sacramento

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Harry Elias, Cathy Stephenson, David Casey, Elizabeth DeRouen, Michael Grogan, Carol O'Callaghan, Jay Smith and Dale Wilson.

**Members Absent:** Donald Cohon, Teresa Contreras, Tina Williams and Wendy Wright.

**Cal EMA Staff Present:** Ellie Jones, Janine Williams and Leigh Bills.

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Harry Elias, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Individuals present introduced themselves.

#### **II. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2008 MEETING**

The CJA Task Force (Task Force) members reviewed the minutes. Catherine Stephenson noted David Casey's name was spelled incorrectly on page two. David Casey made a motion to approve the minutes with one minor edit, Catherine Stephenson seconded the motion and the motion was approved with all in favor.

#### **III. CalEMA ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ellie Jones, Victim Services Branch Chief, updated the Task Force on the progress of the January 1, 2009 merger of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security into one agency; the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA). Ms. Jones informed the Task Force that Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Matthew Benttenhausen as the Acting Secretary of Cal EMA and that the structure of the agency is still being decided. Ms. Jones committed to providing the Task Force with an organizational chart once one is available.

Ms. Jones spoke to the stimulus money California is expected to receive (possibly as much as \$15,000,000) and said Cal EMA is working on how to make best use of these funds.

The Task Force decided to schedule the fall and winter 2009 meetings at the June 12, 2009 CJA Task Force meeting.

Leigh Bills informed the Task Force that Robin Allen and Jan Dunn have resigned from the Task Force as a result of the new conflict of interest language in the California CJA Task Force Member Expectations. Ms. Bills reminded the Task Force of the membership requirements (eleven disciplines) and the positions which are currently vacant.

The Task Force discussed which disciplines to fill with two members and which to fill with only one member. The Task Force decided to recruit members from the following disciplines:

- Judge (criminal or civil);
- Prosecutor;
- Law Enforcement;
- Court Appointed Special Advocate;
- Individuals experienced in working with children with disabilities;
- Child Protective Services; and
- Former Foster Youth – adult over 21 years of age.

Catherine Stephenson made a motion to solicit members for the above disciplines, Michael Grogan seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

#### **IV. PRESENTATIONS**

Staff from three CJA funded programs gave presentations to the Task Force.

Dave Meyers from the Judicial Council demonstrated the CalDog website created through the Child Abuse and Neglect Legal Resource Program, which ended on December 31, 2008. The website has been operational from December 1, 2008 and maintenance of the website will be funded by the Judicial Council.

Julianne Sylva, Chair of the Child Abduction Task Force, spoke about the training done by that Task Force and the continuing need to train new law enforcement personnel.

Robert Coombs, from California Alliance Against Sexual Assault, presented on the work of the Children with Disabilities Think Tank.

#### **V. CJA THREE-YEAR REPORT ANNUAL REVIEW**

The Task Force reviewed each of the eight recommendations from the 2005-2007 CJA Three-Year Report.

Recommendation #1 – The Task Force decided to review the Minimum Standard Protocol (MSP), update the protocol as needed and determine a vehicle for redistribution of the MSP. In addition, the Task Force decided to reinstate the use of a

MSP in all CJA funded Request for Proposal (RFP) and Request for Application (RFA) when applicable.

Recommendation #2 – The Task Force decided to continue requiring outcome based evaluations (and 10% of funding) in all applicable CJA funded RFPs/RFAs. The Task Force decided to continue the plan of having grant recipients present at a CJA meeting in the fall of their second year of funding.

Recommendation #3 – The Task Force decided to ask the Child Victims with Disabilities Think Tank to draft language, regarding the needs of child victims with disabilities, to be added to all applicable CJA funded RFPs/RFAs.

Recommendation #4 – The Task Force recommended the development of a competitive RFP to develop and disseminate a curriculum to train health care providers on the identification of child abuse and neglect victims.

Recommendation #5 – The Task Force is satisfied with the progress toward this recommendation.

Recommendation #6 – The Task Force recommended the development of a program to address the training needs of law enforcement in regards to the human trafficking of children in California. This is to be accomplished through a competitive RFP.

Recommendation #7 – The Task Force recommends funding an additional project within the Children Exposed to Domestic Violence Specialized Response (EV) Program.

Recommendation #8 – The Task Force is satisfied with the progress toward this recommendation.

## **VI. 2009 CJA FUNDS**

The Task Force reviewed the programs scheduled to end on December 31, 2009 and developed the budget for the 2009 CJA application. Ms. Bills informed the Task Force the programs scheduled to end are funded with \$885,000.

The Task Force recommended funding for the following programs with available 2009 CJA funds:

- Health Care Provider Child Abuse Identification Training – RFP - \$150,000
- Child Abduction Training – RFA - \$60,000
- Human Trafficking Law Enforcement Training – RFP - \$400,000 (2 programs)
- EV Program – RFP - \$200,000

The Task Force recommended \$75,000, to be used for the redistribution of the MSP, be added to the CJA Task Force line-item in the State Operations category of the 2009 CJA Budget.

Catherine made a motion to approve the approve recommendations, David Casey seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

## **VII. REVERTED & NON-AWARDED FUNDS**

Ms. Bills informed the Task Force that one of the Extended Forensic Evaluation (EF) Program projects was unable to implement the program and did not accept funding for the third year of operation. Therefore, \$50,000 of 2008 CJA funding was not awarded to the grant recipient. Ms. Bills also informed the Task Force that Cal EMA is anticipating reverting \$29,000 from the Tribal Resource Specialist Program.

Ms. Bills introduced the Cal EMA CJA Reverted Funds Reallocation Procedure to the Task Force. The Task Force made minor changes to the language and Carol O'Callaghan made a motion to approve the procedure. Dale Wilson seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

Ms. Bills indicated based on the newly approved procedure, Cal EMA's recommendation for the \$50,000 of 2008 CJA funds not awarded through the EF Program be given to the two existing EV projects (\$25,000 each). Jay Smith made a motion to give the \$50,000 to the EV Program. Catherine Stephenson seconded this motion and all members voted in favor.

The Task Force discussed uses for the \$29,000 of 2008 CJA funds possibly being reverted from the TS Program project. The Task Force decided the funds should be offered to the other two TS Program projects before offering the funds to the Child Abduction Training Program. David Casey made a motion to recommend the above statement, Carol O'Callaghan seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

## **VIII. MISCELLANEOUS**

Ms. Bills informed the Task Force of the March 30–31, 2009 federal CJA meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. Harry Elias can not attend so Catherine Stephenson may attend or may send someone in her place.

The Task Force requested the solicitation for new members be released with a due date prior to the June 12, 2009 CJA meeting. The Task Force also requested drafts of the RFPs for the newly funded programs and the disability language for their review.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.